

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/806,550

Examiner

Gregory J. Strimbu

Applicant(s)

DANIELS ET AL.

Art Unit

3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the tele. int. of 5/26/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-10 and 12-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 3/23/04 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/26/05</u> |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rolland A. Fuller on May 26, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

inserted --HAVING A DISENGAGEABLE GEAR TRAIN-- following "LIFTGATE"

In the claims:

claim 1,

line 15, inserted --electrical-- before "energization" and inserted --between said engaged position and said disengaged position-- following "train"

line 16, changed "between" to --to-- and changed "to" to --and holds said gear train in--

line 17, deleted "maintain" and changed "driving engagement" to --engaged position--

claim 4,

line 4, changed "engages" to --causes said crank arm to engage--

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claim 7,

line 2, changed "link" to --linkage--

line 3, changed "link" to --linkage--

line 4, changed "link" to --linkage-- and inserted --gear train is in said engaged position,-- following the last occurrence of "said"

line 5, deleted "holding linkage engages."

claim 9,

line 2, changed the last occurrence of "a" to --the--

line 20, inserted --between said engaged position and said disengaged position-- following "train"

line 21, changed "between" to --to-- and changed "to" to --and holds said gear train in--

line 22, deleted "maintain" and changed "driving engagement" to --engaged position--

line 25, changed "open and closed conditions" to --open condition--

claim 10,

line 3, changed the first occurrence of "said" to --a--

claim 13,

line 3, changed "one other of said plurality of gears" to --each other--

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claim 14,

line 3, changed "at least one of" to --said gear train--

line 4, deleted "said plurality of gears"

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, absent applicant's own disclosure, fails to teach the entire combination of elements set forth in the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art of record fails to teach a power drive mechanism comprising an actuator operatively connected with the gear train and being operable upon electrical energization to effect the movement of the gear train between the engaged position and the disengaged position, and a holding linkage operatively connected to the gear train and the actuator and holds the gear train in the engaged position once the actuator moves the gear train into the engaged position including after the actuator is deenergized. See lines 14-18 of claim 1 and lines 19-23 of claim 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 571-

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272-6836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Strimbu", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gregory J. Strimbu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634
May 26, 2005